(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to pursue the matter with U.S. Government on its support to jehadis by its double speak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The United States Government has repeatedly expressed itself against cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and has condemned terrorist incidents in the State.

(b) The two Governments regularly exchange views and assessment on terrorism, including cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. It is Government's understanding that the U.S. Government does not support terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Steps to Counter International Terrorism

1993. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore have agreed to examine ways to adopt their 32 years old security pact to counter a new generation threat-international terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the Ministers have approved a plan to look into expanding the military pact to include the fight against terrorism and other cross-border crimes;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to examine ways to incorporate such issues into the military agreement, and

(d) if so, to what extent this would help in ending of global terrorism in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes. During the Fifth Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) Defence Ministers' Meeting held in Penang in Malaysia on 2nd June 2003, the Ministers agreed to look at non-conventional forms of threats, in particular, global terrorism, piracy and illegal immigrants. The FPDA Meeting further discussed joint training, intelligence sharing and capacity building to counter terrorism.

(c) and (d) No. There had been no agreement to change the Charter and the role of FPDA. The Ministerial Meeting only acknowledged the

non-conventional threats to the security of Singapore and Malaysia. The FPDA Consultative Council (FCC) will study and examine the envisaged threats and forward their recommendation to be discussed in the next Ministerial Meeting.

Visit of Israeli Envoy to India

1994. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an envoy from Israel had visited India, recently;

(b) the purpose of his visit; and

(c) the details of discussions held with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) To brief the Indian Government on Israeli perspectives on recent developments in the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

(c) Maj. Gen. David Ivry, Special Envoy of Israeli Foreign Minister called on Deputy Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. He was also received by PS to PM and NSA. These discussions centered on bilateral issues and developments in the West Asia situation.

Women emoployees in RPO, Hyderabad

1995. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate number of women working in the Regional Passport Office at Hyderabad;

(b) the details of number of women officers and employees holding responsible positions;

(c) whether, Government would post adequate women employees to attend a large number of women from conservative social background visiting the passport office to get their passports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?